

BULLETIN

STATINTL

Circ.: e. 695,830
S. 691,530

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Date:

There Are Two General Taylors

Both Have Been Mentioned as Allen Dulles' Successor

By HOLMES ALEXANDER

Washington—“It looked as if Allen Dulles would have to go,” said a senior U. S. Senator who was discussing the Central Intelligence Agency behind closed doors. “That didn’t bother me at first because it appeared that General Max Taylor would become CIA director. Now there is an attempt by White House advisers to put in General Telford Taylor—who apparently wants it very much.”

Perhaps the best way to make use of this story is to juxtapose the salient facts on these two General Taylors and invite opinion to judge which man, or which type of man, should head up CIA, the elephantiasis-afflicted agency for gathering information about our Cold War enemies.

M. Taylor's Career

In June, 1953, Maxwell Davidson Taylor, born in Missouri, 1901, received his fourth star as a general officer in the U. S. Army to cap a military career which started when he graduated fourth in the Class of 1922 at West Point.

In between his second lieutenantancy and his service in Washington as Army Chief of Staff, 1955-59, Taylor lived the charmed, dashing, disciplined life of a soldier. He went through enemy lines to Rome 24 hours ahead of his troops to plan their attack. A year later he commanded the famous 101st Airborne Division when it jumped into the campaigns of the Ardennes and Central Europe.

After the war, he was named superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy. He became the first U. S. military commander of Berlin, replaced Van Fleet as commander of the Eighth Army in Korea, supervised the prisoner exchanges and the building of a 20-division Republic of Korea Army.

Telford Taylor's Record

Brig. Gen. Telford Taylor, born in 1908 in New York State, received a direct commission from civilian life and served as an intelligence officer in Europe throughout World War II.

He assisted, and later succeeded, Justice Robert Jackson as chief prosecutor in the War Criminal Trials at Nuremberg. At the time of this appointment, as well as others before and after, Gen. Taylor was given routine investigations. The following data are now on my desk as the result of some expanded shoe leather:

In October, 1941—two months before Pearl Harbor—



M. Taylor



T. Taylor

he was general counsel of the Federal Communications Commission. In a lengthy opinion, he recommended that the FCC withhold from the FBI the fingerprints of some 250,000 licensed radio operators, a few of whom were thought to be working for our enemies.

Photostatic Copy

In October, 1952, his name was “flagged” in the Civil Service files, meaning that although he was Small Defense Plants Administrator, he was barred from obtaining certain information. I have a photostatic copy of this form before me. Under the box marked “Remarks,” there is this notation: “Name flagged. Unsolved question of loyalty.”

In December, 1953, a congressional committee looked

into his work at Nuremberg. The staff report before me has a paragraph marked “Conclusions,” which reads:

“It is highly significant that Telford Taylor’s staff in Germany had a number of individuals who later turned out to be Soviet spies, Communists, or Leftists with pronounced pro-Soviet leanings. It is claimed that Curt Ponger and Otto Verber, Americans recently arrested as Soviet spies in Austria, were employed by Telford Taylor in Germany. Drexel Sprecher is another individual associated with Taylor.”

Condemns Probes

Gen. Telford Taylor’s book, “Grand Inquest” (1954), condemns our system of congressional probes.

The record also discloses he acted as legal defender of Harry Bridges, often identified under oath as a West Coast Communist, and of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, a Red organizer in Southern states, who was convicted of Communist party membership under the Smith Act.

Yes, there are two General Taylors. If President Kennedy nominates one of them director of CIA, let’s hope he picks the right one.

MORI/CDF